



Plastic bottles and cans continue to be a blight on our streets and in our environment. A Cash for Containers scheme will reduce litter and improve the natural environment, create jobs and reduce climate pollution.

We all want a clean, healthy environment.

Plastic bottles and cans account for about one in five pieces of litter in Victoriaⁱ.

To deal with the ubiquitous problem of bottles and cans littering our streets South Australia and the Northern Territory have implemented very successful Cash for Containers schemes. It's time Victoria joined them.

Cash for container schemes provide 10 cent refunds on bottles, cans and cartons. The refund provides an incentive not to litter and returns cash to individuals, community groups and schools who recycle.

Despite the clear community benefits, the beverage industry led by multi-national companies like Coca-Cola and Lion have fought tooth and nail against such schemes. These billionaire companies have intimidated the old parties into putting the community second behind corporate profits.

The Greens are not intimidated and we will continue to act in the best interests of the community and the environment.

The Greens have long campaigned for a Cash for Container scheme in Victoria, including introducing legislation in 2009 and again in 2011. While the government voted against it on those occasions, we have not given up.

A Victorian Cash for Container scheme would save rate payers approximately \$48 million a year, earn \$15m a year for charities, attract \$124m in private investment to Victoria, and create over 1,300 green jobsⁱⁱ.

With such a scheme we could increase recycling of drink containers from 49% to an estimated 83%ⁱⁱⁱ, divert more than 124,000 tonnes of materials from landfill per year, reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 456,000 tonnes of CO₂ each year and reduce plastic in our waterways – reducing harm to marine animals^{iv}.

Since then community support for a scheme has remained high. The Greens are committed to cash for container legislation in Victoria, to help clean up the state, create jobs and protect our environment.

WASTE REDUCTION

Rubbish is not just an eyesore but also pollutes our environment. We need to ensure our trash never gets the chance to enter parks, gutters, creeks, rivers and oceans.

The Greens believe individuals and companies must take more responsibility for the amount of waste that is produced. We are committed to removing existing waste from the environment and minimising the creation of new waste.

However, currently Victoria is heading in the wrong direction. Victoria has increased its annual waste generation from roughly eight million tonnes in 2000 to 11.9 million tonnes in 2011^v.

By establishing a Cash for Container scheme the Greens will improve waste management in Victoria. We will reduce the amount of beverage containers found in our waterways, parks and on our beaches.

CASH FOR CONTAINERS

THE GREENS PLAN FOR A 10 CENT CONTAINER DEPOSIT SCHEME FOR VICTORIA



Our cash for containers scheme will recover high value materials and stop plastics and toxic metals from polluting the environment. Other places with these schemes have been shown to have much lower levels of marine plastics, one of the most pervasive pollution issues affecting wildlife in our oceans.

JOBS & BUSINESS BENEFITS

Better management of Victoria's waste not only improves the natural environment, it provides an opportunity to create new industries and jobs.

Research by the Boomerang Alliance^{vi} indicates that a Victorian Cash for Containers scheme will create 833 new jobs and a further 533 indirect jobs. Conservatively, the value of this job creation is \$10.9 million each year to Victoria.

There are a variety of industries that will benefit. As a result of the Cash for Container scheme, we can expect up to \$124 million in private investment in Victoria. Businesses engaged in recycling collection and transport will grow by \$44 million a year.

The scheme we propose will provide \$12.3million in incentives to increase domestic reprocessing of scrap, and as many major reprocessors are based in Victoria, it will result in a growth in the sector of \$46.2 million annually.

Introduction of Cash for Containers has not led to any reduction in sales of beverages where it has been introduced. Far from costing the retail sector, Cash for Containers will actually pay supermarkets an estimated \$5.1million in fees for participating in the scheme.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Research undertaken in NSW indicates that a Cash for Container scheme if implemented in Victoria would reduce costs for local government and benefit rate payers by as much as \$47.6 million annually.

The reduction in costs for local government comes from reduced litter clean-up costs, reduced curbside collection, avoided landfill costs and more efficient street sweeping.

Community organisations and charities are also set to earn around \$14.9 million every year through operating collection centres, recycling and clean-up programs.

OTHER PARTIES

Successive governments have failed to respond to Victoria's high production of waste.

A few big powerful companies in the beverage industry – especially Coca Cola and Lion – falsely claim that Cash for Container schemes are too expensive and an inefficient way to clean up our nation's rubbish. They have strongly lobbied state governments to prevent new schemes, and are also behind an aggressive advertising campaign claiming that it will impact Australians' cost of living.

Rather than standing up to these lobby groups and responding to the evidence of the environmental benefits, the old parties have succumbed to the pressure.

In 2009, the Labor Government voted against the Victorian Greens legislation for a Cash for Container scheme. Despite Denis Naphthine's stated support, the Liberals have failed to introduce a scheme in Victoria in their past four years of Government.

i The Age, <http://www.smh.com.au/environment/litter-data-recycles-case-for-bottle-and-can-refund-20130410-2hltty.html>.

ii Boomerang Alliance, Economic and Social Analysis of the Impacts of the Boomerang Alliance Model –Victoria October 2013.

iii Office of Colleen Hartland, Turning Rubbish into Community Money, 2011.

iv Boomerang Alliance, Economic and Social Analysis of the Impacts of the Boomerang Alliance Model –Victoria October 2013.

v Getting Full Value: the Victorian Waste and Resource Recovery Policy, Victorian Government.

vi Except where otherwise noted, all facts and figures in this document are sourced from: Boomerang Alliance, Economic and Social Analysis of the Impacts of the Boomerang Alliance Model –Victoria October 2013.